

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 NIC-01 /083 W

----- 078947

R 181008Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8856

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK

SUBJ: GOP AIDE MEMOIRE REPORTS PAK-AFGHAN TALKS CANCELLED

REF: ISLAMABAD 1333 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED MFA AIDE MEMOIRE DATED FEBRUARY 15 WHICH REPORTS THAT PLANNED BILATERAL TALKS WHICH WERE TO BE HELD IN KABUL ON THAT DATE BETWEEN PAK FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI AND AFGHAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WAHEED ABDULLAH HAVE BEEN POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. THIS IS A REITERATION OF WHAT ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY NAIK LAST WEEK TOLD CHARGE' (REPORTED REFTEL): THAT TALKS WOULD NOT BE HELD AS RESULT OF WHAT PAKS SEE AS AN AFGHAN HAND IN ASSASSINATION OF NWFP SENIOR MINISTER SHERPAO. AIDE MEMOIRE CONTAINS WHAT GOP CONSIDERS ARE DETAILS OF AFGHAN INTERFERENCE IN PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND ALSO TIME TABLE WHICH GOP HAD HOPED TO FOLLOW TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.

2. SIGNIFICANT POINTS OF AIDE MEMOIRE, WHICH MFA DIRECTOR FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFGHANISTAN TELLS US WAS PASSED TO MOST MISSIONS HERE, AS

FOLLOWS:

BRUTAL ASSASSINATION OF SHERPAO HAS BE BE VIEWED
AGAINST BACKDROP OF POLITICS OF VIOLENCE UNLEASHED
IN FRONTIER BY NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY(NAP)WITH THE
ACTIVE ENCOURAGEMENT OF RADIO KABUL.

FOR PAST YEAR THERE HAVE BEEN INCREASING NUMBER OF BOMB
BLASTS IN PAKISTAN AND AGAINST POLITICAL WORKERS,
WITH SHERPAO AS SPECIALLY SELECTED TARGET OF WELL-
ORCHESTRATED TERRORIST CAMPAIGN OF ELEMENTS SWORN
TO DESTROY TRNQILITY AND HARMONY IN PAKISTAN.

IT WAS NOT INSIGNIFICANT THAT RADIO KABUL'S JANUARY
13 PUSHTU COMMENTARY THREATENED HIM WITH DIRE
CONSEQUENCES.

THAT NAP IS BEHIND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES BORN OUT IN
UTTERANCES OF ITS LEADERS, INCLUDING FORMER SECGEN
AJMAL KHATTAK WHO HAS BEEN MASTERMINDING TERRORIST
ACTIVITIES FROM HIS SANCTUARY IN KABUL WHERE AFGHAN
GOVERNMENT TREATS HIM AS A POLITICAL DIGNITARY IN
EXILE. IN RECENT INTERVIEW WITH BBC CORRESPONDENT
KHATTAK CONFESSED TO HEADING TERRORIST FRONT OPER-
ATING IN PAKISTAN.

IN FACE OF INCONTROVERTIBLE EVIDENCE ABOUT MALA FIDES
OF NAP, GOP WAS FORCED TO BAN IT AS POLITICAL PARTY.

AFGHANISTAN'S INVOLVEMENT IN DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES IN
PAKISTAN NO SECRET. AJMAL KHATTAK'S BASE IS IN
KABUL. RADIO KABUL PUTS OUT THE MOST VITUPERATIVE
AND VENEMOUS PROPAGANDA AGAINST PAKISTAN, ITS
BROADCASTS MALIGN VERY BASIS OF PAKISTAN AND MADE
ABUSIVE PERSONAL ATTACKS AGAINST PM AND OTHER
GOVERNMENT LEADERS. AFGHAN OFFICIALS MISS NO
OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE STATEMENTS INTERFERING IN PAK
INTERNAL AFFAIRS NOR DO THEY CONCEAL THEIR SPECIAL
RELATIONS WITH NAP LEADERS.

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GOP HAS ALWAYS SOUGHT IMPROVEMENT IN POLITICAL CLIMATE
BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, DESPITE VICIOUS GOA
PROPAGANDA. GOP RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO
PERSUASIONS OF BROTHERLY MUSLIM COUNTRIES AND
AGREED TO TALKS TO AFGHANS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS.
INITIALLY, AFGHANS CHOSE TO INTERPRET BHUTTO'S
DECEMBER INVITATION TO DAUD AS PROPAGANDA GIMMICK,
LATER MODIFIED HOSTILE REACTION AND AGREED TO OPEN

DIALOGUE. AN UNDERSTANDING THAT PAK FOREIGN SECRETARY TO VISIT KABUL FOR DIALOGUE WITH WAHEED ABDULLAH WAS REACHED. IF SUCCESSFUL, THIS WAS TO BE FOLLOWED BY MEETING BETWEEN AZIZ AHMAD AND MOHAMMAD NAIM. IF TWO MEETINGS GENERATED REASONABLE CLIMATE AND DEMONSTRATED AREAS POSSIBLE AGREEMENT, SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN PAK PM AND AFGHAN PRESIDENT TO BE HELD. FOLLOWING TIME TABLE PAK FOREIGN SECRETARY TO VISIT KABUL ON FEBRUARY 15.

GOV SINCERELY WANTED REPLACE PRESENT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WITH PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AS WAS CLEAR FROM READINESS TO TALK WITH AFGHANS DESPITE GOA'S HOSTILE, RECALCITRANT AND INTRANSIGENT PUBLIC POSTURE AND RADIO KABUL'S CAMPAIGN OF VICIOUS LIES AND ABUSES AGAINST PAKISTAN.

WANTON MURDER OF SHERPAO HAS CAUSED SERIOUS SETBACK IN PROSPECTS IN DIALOGUE WITH AFGHANISTAN. PUBLIC ANGER AND AGITATION AGAINST KABUL HAS BEEN SPONTANEOUS; IT HAS BEEN AROUSED TO AN EXTENT THAT FOR SEC VISIT TO KABUL AT THIS TIME WOULD CONSIDER DEEP AND WIDESPREAD RESENTMENT IN PAKISTAN. POLITICAL CLIMATE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES HAS BEEN UNPROFITABLE FOR DIALOGUE, WHICH WILL NOW HAVE TO PENDING UNTIL RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION INTO FACTS SURROUNDING SHERPAO'S ASSASSINATION ARE KNOWN AND DETERMINATION WHETHER AND TO WHAT EXTENT KABUL BEARS DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR CRIME HAS BEEN MADE.

3. COPIES OF AIDE MEMOIRE BEING FORWARDED DEPARTMENT AND KABUL.

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